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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 194



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CONTENTS

HUMAN DISEASES

ARGENTINA

- Rural Health Program Reduces Infant Mortality Rate
(LA PRENSA, 25 Jun 80)..... 1

Briefs

- Sewage Improvements 3
National Polio Campaign 3

BRAZIL

- Effort To Control Malaria Intensified Nationwide
(Various sources, various dates)..... 4

Malaria Return Worries WHO
Year-End Malaria Eradication Target
January Malaria Drive Launch

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Briefs

- Rabies Reported 7

ETHIOPIA

Briefs

- Vaccination Statistics 8

GABON

Briefs

Measles Incidence Rising	9
Vaccination Statistics, Popular Reluctance	9

GUINEA-BISSAU

Briefs

Quinhamel Epidemic Under Control	10
----------------------------------	----

INDIA

Briefs

Encephalitis Deaths Reach 108	11
-------------------------------	----

KENYA

Briefs

Cholera Deaths, Incidence	12
Incidence of Rabies Increasing	12

MALAYSIA

Increase in Tuberculosis Detection in Penang State (NEW STRAITS TIMES, 3 Jun 80).....	13
Five Infant Deaths From Gastroenteritis (NEW STRAITS TIMES, 7 Jun 80).....	14
Dengue Reported in Johore, Sarawak States (Various sources, 3, 28 Jun 80).....	15
Eleven Cases Since January First Case in Sarawak	
Timber Workers Warned Against Malaria (BORNEO BULLETIN, 28 Jun 80).....	16

MOZAMBIQUE

Cholera Outbreak Reportedly Losing Strength (NOTICIAS, 3 Jul 80).....	17
--	----

NEPAL

Briefs

Hospitals Total 73	18
--------------------	----

NIGERIA

Letter Disputes Figures on Meningitis Decline (NEW NIGERIAN, 17 Jun 80).....	19
Briefs	
IMD State Cholera	21

PAKISTAN

Diarrhea Epidemic Toll Reaches 40 (THE MUSLIM, 13 Jul 80).....	22
Three More Die of Gastroenteritis (MORNING NEWS, 11 Jul 80).....	23
Mass Vaccination, Survey of Ground Water Ordered (THE MUSLIM, 4 Jul 80).....	24
Editorial: Vaccination Drive (DAWN, 8 Jul 80).....	25
Briefs	
Anticholera Drive in Multan District	27

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PRC Research Institutes Cooperate With WHO (XINHUA, 25 Jun 80).....	28
'XINHUA' Surveys Rural Health Situation in Sichuan (XINHUA, 8 Jul 80).....	29
Briefs	
Parasitic Diseases	30

TANZANIA

Briefs	
Plague Deaths	31

VIETNAM

Briefs	
Thanh Hoa Health Sector	32

ZAMBIA

Measles Outbreak in Choma Reported (TIMES OF ZAMBIA, 30 Jun 80).....	33
---	----

ANIMAL DISEASES

ARGENTINA

Briefs Drop in Rabies Cases	34
--------------------------------	----

BOTSWANA

Briefs Incurable Disease Kills Cattle	35
--	----

BRAZIL

Government Immunizes Against Hog Cholera in Ceara (O GLOBO, 5 Jul 80).....	36
---	----

NORWAY

Briefs Parvo Virus Spreads	37
-------------------------------	----

PLANT DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS

BOTSWANA

Locusts Swamp Barolong Area (DAILY NEWS, 4 Jun 80).....	38
--	----

SWEDEN

Briefs War on Bark Beetle	39
------------------------------	----

RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM REDUCES INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jun 80 p 14

[Text] The rural health program of the Salta Ministry of Social Security has already covered an area of 101,308 kilometers, representing 65 percent of the province's rural zone, according to a report which cites the gains made on the basis of the evaluations resulting from the ninth phase which took place from March to May.

Over 20,000 kilometers were covered by the work done by 275 health agents, who engaged in their activities from house to house in the 18 operational areas.

According to the director of the program, Dr Enrique Tanoni, significant progress was made in primary health care within the section included in that area, noteworthy among which are the activities carried out in Chaco and the Salta highlands, as well as in San Antonio de los Cobres and Santa Victoria Este. It was noted that over 132,000 individuals were treated, and the application of vaccines and immunization were intensified.

In connection with the antituberculosis drive that has just been included in the activity, the BCG vaccine was also applied.

Infant Mortality

Dr Tanoni stated: "It was also found that, with the activity that has been under way, there was success in reducing the death rate in areas where it was most critical, such as Iruya, Pichanal, Santa Victoria Oeste, Rivadavia, Banda Norte and Morillo, by percentages ranging from 11 to 16 percent."

Other Action

Other activities conducted include the confinement of sick persons, instructions to residents on environmental sanitation and a drive aimed at increasing the number of drinking water treatment plants.

In this regard, it was noted that, for 2 months, the residents of Rodeo Colorado cooperated with the authorities by transporting materials to an altitude of 3,000 meters for the construction of a plant which is scheduled to be ready by July of this year.

Environmental Sanitation

The Office of Environmental Sanitation has initiated programs aimed at determining the degree of water and air pollution in the province, with activities in the Arenales River area and at the General Belgrano dam.

It was also reported that a basic rural sanitation program has been established whereby instruction on sanitation is being given to residents of the interior section of the province.

This activity is being carried out in conjunction with the rural health program.

2909

CSO: 3400

BRIEFS

SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS--The Lomas de Zamora Federation of Development Associations has announced negotiations with the pertinent authorities to resolve the situation facing the population because of the lack of a drinking water supply and a shortage of sewage systems for the area. In this regard, it reported meetings held with officials from the national sanitation works agency, especially from the Greater Buenos Aires area and the district of Lomas de Zamora. The federation said that meetings were also held with local municipal authorities who, jointly with the aforementioned officials, stated that an agreement had been concluded between the two parties to complete these projects. Insofar as the heavily populated ninth district is concerned, it noted that the sanitation works agency would continue to install pipes of larger diameter at the intersection of General Hornos and Ejercito de los Andes Streets, something which was halted several years ago. The municipality of Lomas de Zamora is responsible for the extension of the residential systems. It was added that this plan will, at first, benefit the localities of Florito, Ingeniero Budge and La Salada. The federation concluded by saying that it has arranged to call for bids this year on the sewer spillway for the town of Temperley, measuring 1,200 millimeters, which will make it possible to extend services to other sections of that locality. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jun 80 Sec 2 p 3] 2909

NATIONAL POLIO CAMPAIGN--The first national anti-poliomyelitis vaccination drive planned for this year will be started by the Secretariat of Health of the Nation on Thursday, and will last until the following day. The number of doses will be changed during this campaign because, instead of two, there will be three vaccinations at intervals of 7 weeks for each. On this occasion, vaccinations will be administered to children between 2 months and 3 years of age, and to pregnant women who are in the fifth month of pregnancy and beyond, regardless of the doses received previously. The vaccination will be compulsory and free of charge, and will be given at all of the country's medical treatment centers and schools. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 Jun 80 p 13] 2909

CSO: 5400

EFFORT TO CONTROL MALARIA INTENSIFIED NATIONWIDE

Malaria Return Worries WHO

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Jul 80 p 3

[Text] Professor Leonidas M. Deane, one of the world's most famous malaria experts, at 1000 today, in the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, in Manginhos, will deliver a lecture on the resurgence of malaria in areas where it had been kept under control. According to Deane, "malaria is not just a disease with a past but also with a future."

The lecture title is "Anopheles Cruzi, Carrier of Human and Simian Malaria in the South of Brazil--Will It Be a Complex of Deadly Species?" The lecture was organized by the Study Center of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute.

After failing in its attempt to wipe out malaria, the WHO will have to continue the revision of its strategy in the fight against this disease with the intention of at least controlling it. This will be the main topic of its 33rd General Meeting.

In Amazonia

"Malaria is a serious problem which will continue in Amazonia, while the region is in the phase of occupation," said Dr Agostinho Cruz Marques, of the Health Ministry, in talking about the control of this disease throughout national territory, a topic of yesterday's round-table discussion during the Fourth Amazonic Medical Congress and the First Congress of Health Sciences of the universities of Amazonia.

According to Agostinho, malaria "is intimately tied to the clearing of regions since wherever man arrives, malaria is right with him, in view of the precarious conditions he encounters while beginning to live in the jungle forest."

In areas watched by health agencies, there are about 37.7 million inhabitants and last year SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns] conducted about 2 million examinations, with 144,220 slides revealing positive results. Out of the total, 94.1 percent or 134,000 of these cases

were registered in Amazonia. More specifically, 332,682 examinations were conducted during that same period of time in Para, with 36,876 positive results. The highest malaria incidence rates in Amazonia were discovered in Para, Rondonia, and Roraima, with 1.6 million square kilometers in the territory of Para totally under control.

Year-End Malaria Eradication Target

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jul 80 p 16

[Text] Malaria will be totally wiped out in the southern part of the country by the end of the year, according to estimates of SUCAM, Ministry of Health, which this month began to collect blood specimens from the entire population of the two townships of Santa Catarina-Araguarina and Sao Francisco do Sul as well as some nearby cities in the State of Parana in order to detect cases of malaria existing there.

According to SUCAM Superintendent Jose Fiuza, the blood sample collection effort, which will be completed by October, along with the respective diagnoses, will lead to the determination of the exact number of malaria cases; he also explained that the disease is not manifested in the southern part of the country with external signs, instead revealing "subclinical cases," which can be detected only through tests.

In the states of Santa Catarina and Parana--the disease has already been wiped out in Rio Grande do Sul--malaria is transmitted by kertezia, a mosquito which proliferates and grows in a vegetation called bromelia, a kind of tree with big leaves. In this region the disease has been persistent for many years due to the rapid and easy proliferation of the mosquito and the eradication effort must include a fight against the insect until it has been totally wiped out.

Jose Fiuza also announced that, after taking care of the country's southern part, SUCAM will be able to go into the State of Sao Paulo, where the problem "is more complicated because, in addition to malaria cases existing along the shore of that state--and there are few cases of that nature--Sao Paulo gets the disease from other states through infected persons." According to Fiuza, they are getting an average of 100 new malaria cases per month in Sao Paulo, transmitted by persons from other parts of the country.

January Malaria Drive Launch

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Jun 80 p 7

[Text] Health Minister Waldyr Arcoverde yesterday announced the implementation of a nationwide drive to wipe malaria out in Brazil for December or January. The minister's decision was made when the secretary of state for Mato Grosso reported to him an outbreak of the disease in the state's northern part.

The minister was informed that the spread of malaria to the region of Amazonia is mainly due to the lack of quinine, manufactured by a laboratory in Biafra. Arcoverde was informed that the laboratory, which represents the multinational outfit in Brazil, is deliberately causing a shortage of the product in order to force prices up. Rather irritated, the minister said that "no Brazilian will die for lack of medication."

8058

CSQ:5400

BRIEFS

RABIES REPORTED--The CSR Ministry of Health has cautioned the populace that rabies have spread from the border areas into the Central Bohemian Kraj and even have been reported in the vicinity of Prague. [Prague ZEMEDLSKE NOVINY in Czech 9 Jul 80 p 4]

CSO: 3400

ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

VACCINATION STATISTICS--Asmara--A vaccination against six diseases is being conducted for children and pregnant mothers in Asmara since Tuesday, Sister Alganesh Kidane the inspector of nurse service of the town disclosed. Sister Alganesh pointed out that the campaign is in progress throughout the nine clinics in Asmara. She further noted that 22,413 children below the age of two and 5,490 pregnant women will be vaccinated before the end of 1972 E. C. As soon as the on-going vaccination campaign in Asmara ends, every effort will be made to conduct the campaign in the rural areas, Sister Alganesh said. Meanwhile 114,362 children below the age of five, 74,930 mothers and 23,000 students were vaccinated in the past ten months. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 4 Jul 80 p 6]

CSO: 3400

BRIEFS

MEASLES INCIDENCE RISING--Of late the Pediatrics Department of the provincial hospital of Port-Gentil has admitted a large number of children from 6 months to 4 years afflicted with measles. To understand the situation better, we went to Mother and Infant Protection (PMI) where Dr Roy summed up these cases of measles for us. The parents must act quickly when a child is stricken with measles. Dr Roy made the point that the child must be vaccinated twice a year to prevent any attack. Yet there is one problem: the measles vaccine is insufficient to meet the needs of all the people. It would therefore be desirable to leave no stone unturned in preventing a depletion of stocks. [Excerpts] [Libreville L'UNION in French 21 May 80 p 3] 9589

VACCINATION STATISTICS, POPULAR RELUCTANCE--After Ntoum, a center recently established as part of the expanded vaccination campaign in the Province of Estuaire, on 23 April 310 preschool children were immunized against several epidemic and endemic diseases (poliomyelitis, yellow fever, measles, smallpox, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough), it was again the turn of Cap-Estérias to receive the eight agents of the sector, under the leadership of the person responsible, Mr Stoutoume Nzé Léon. Here 113 vaccines were administered. This was actually the fourth time since the beginning of the year that this team has come to Cap-Estérias to perform similar procedures. From the interview we had with the man in charge, Mr Stoutoume Nzé Léon, it appears that the team from the expanded vaccination program has yet to meet any major obstacles, except for the fact that certain families continue to be reluctant at the vaccination sessions, which nevertheless aim at protecting their offspring against endemic and epidemic diseases. This aspect of the problem is all the more disquieting in that these tours are always announced in advance by means of the press, beginning with radio broadcasts. [Text] [Libreville L'UNION in French 15 May 80 p 2] 9589

CSO: 9400

BRIEF

QUINAMEL EPIDEMIC UNDER CONTROL--The epidemic that affected 33 persons in the Quinamel district is already under control thanks to the health services and medical assistance team. With the establishment of a field hospital in this sector since last Sunday, there was only one more fatality among the 33 persons hospitalized. The laboratory analyses have already identified the "haemophilus influenza" bacteria causing the disease. Among the 33 fatalities [as published] there are 3 women and 30 men who had participated in the "fanado" (circumcision) rites. No children were affected. It was noted that there had been a similar epidemic in Quinamel in 1972 following the "fanado" in Bijimite. The number of victims at the time had not been ascertained, and an investigation has been initiated. According to Dr Sabino Dias' statement, "3 persons who had been affected by the disease in 1972 underwent a nasal mucus test for laboratory purposes so as to determine if they are carriers of the disease." As the largest number of victims was registered among persons from the "fanado" barracks, it is believed that this environment may be susceptible to the propagation of the disease because of the undue concentration of persons (more than 2,000 this time) in a restricted area with less than 1 square meter per person, under precarious sanitary conditions. [Excerpts] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 28 Jun 80 p 8]

CSO: 3400

INDIA

BRIEFS

ENCEPHALITIS DEATHS REACH 108--At least 108 children in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have died of encephalitis, Indian newspapers reported Saturday. A hundred deaths were reported from Balaghat District, located about 900 kilometers (560 miles) southeast of here, the reports said. Eight deaths were also reported from Raipur District. Encephalitis is a mosquito-borne disease, which causes brain inflammation. [Text]
[Peshavar KHYBER MAIL in English 6 Jul 80 p 1]

CSO: 3400

BRIEFS

CHOLERA DEATHS, INCIDENCE--The current cholera outbreak has claimed 27 lives so far. Announcing this at the weekend, the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Karuga Koinange, said 400 cases had been positively diagnosed, since January. Out of the 27 confirmed deaths, 12 were in West Pokot, five in Turkana District, four in Busia, three in Nairobi and three in Bungoma. Dr. Koinange asserted, however, that the outbreak was "well under control and the disease will be wiped out in some areas within the next two weeks." Addressing newsmen in his office, he said the cholera situation indicated a downward trend and that surveillance activities in the affected areas showed tremendous success. Dr. Koinange warned, however, that the risk was still high in areas bordering Uganda as the disease was still rampant in Uganda. On the outbreak in Machakos and Kisumu, he said he was confident the disease would not spread as the two towns had isolated cases. Machakos had four and Kisumu six. Dr. Koinange said poor sanitary conditions in many towns in the country were responsible for the outbreak of the killer disease. On Nairobi, he said he had directed the City Council to intensify clean up operations in the city and increase water points in Mathare Valley where there were 123 positive cases. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 30 Jun 80 p 8]

INCIDENCE OF RABIES INCREASING--Rabies is on the increase in all parts of Kisii District. An Assistant Minister for Health Dr. Elon Wameyo, said 21 cases had been treated, two of which had proved fatal and six admitted to Kisii Hospital. Dr. Wameyo was answering a question by Majoge-Bassi MP Zephaniah Anyieni who had suggested that, instead of rabies cases being taken to mission hospitals, the Government should advise them to go to Kisii General Hospital where the vaccines would be administered. Mr. Anyieni said rabies had spread in parts of Kisii District bordering Kericho and Narok Districts. He had asked how many such cases had been detected. Dr. Wameyo said both the health and veterinary officials were working together to curb the spread of the disease. Several animal species have been tested at Kabete and over 6,714 cases have been vaccinated so far. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 2 Jul 80 p 4]

INCREASE IN TUBERCULOSIS DETECTION IN PENANG STATE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Jun 80 p 10

(Text)

PENANG, Mon. — The number of TB cases detected in the State last year showed an increase of 22.3 per cent over the previous year.

According to the annual report of the Malaysian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis' Penang branch, 961 new cases were put on treatment last year and 505 were discovered to be positive.

The increase was partly attributed to the deployment of case investigators to the Penang General Hospital's chest clinic by the association.

These investigators assisted in case finding by health-educating patients to bring in their symptomatic contacts for sputum examinations.

With better organised home visits, the defaulter rate decreased from 4.95 per cent to 3.59 per cent and the abandoned rate from 1.14 per cent to 0.73

per cent.

The report said investigators also kept in close touch with 390 families of TB sufferers through the year with repeated follow-up visits.

It said that last year, 9,295 persons in the State were X-rayed by the association's mobile unit and 24 persons were found to have some abnormalities.

In follow-up checks, 13 of them were found to have active TB and referred to the General Hospital's chest clinic or private medical practitioners for treatment.

The report also said the number of companies and industrial firms which had joined the association's TB insurance scheme had increased to 90. The total number of persons covered by the scheme was 4,023.

CSO: 5400

FIVE INFANT DEATHS FROM GASTROENTERITIS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jun 80 p 13

[Text]

IPON, Fri. — Twenty-three new cases of gastro-enteritis were admitted to the Tapah and Teluk Anson hospitals yesterday, bringing the total number of cases reported in these two areas since the outbreak on May 18 to 393.

Three of the new cases were reported in Tapah while the rest were in Teluk Anson.

The total number of cases admitted to the Teluk Anson hospital so far is 388 and to the Tapah hospital, 105.

The State Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr Gurmukh Singh, said there were still 48 cases being treated at the Teluk Anson hospital.

New cases

At the Tapah hospital there were still 17 cases undergoing treatment.

Dr Gurmukh Singh said the fact that more new cases were being reported at the two hospitals was a sign that members of the public were responding to the advice to send their children for treatment as soon as the babies suffered from fever, vomiting and diarrhoea.

So far five babies have died of the disease.

Three of them were from Teluk Anson while the other two were from Tapah.

DENGUE REPORTED IN JOHORE, SARAWAK STATES

Eleven Cases Since January

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Jun 80 p 17

[Text]

JOHORE BARU, Mon. — The fight against dengue is far from over and the people should not feel complacent, the State Director of Health Datuk Dr Tow Siong Yeow said today.

He warned that anyone found to be reckless, leading to the breeding of mosquitoes, would be fined a compound fine of \$100 or even charged and fined up to \$2,000 or jailed up to six months

or both.

Datuk Dr Tow said his department would keep on fighting the dengue menace, which must be wiped out to prevent transmission of the disease.

On the dengue situation in the State since the beginning of the year, Datuk Dr Tow said there were only 11 cases of the fever.

One in January, three in February, two

in March and three in April — all in Johore Baru. Last month there were two cases in Muar.

Datuk Dr Tow said the people need not be worried over a new outbreak, as those cases were isolated ones.

He urged the people to keep their surroundings clean and to ensure that empty tins, bottles and any containers that can hold water be cleared.

First Case in Sarawak

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 28 Jun 80 p 2

[Text]

KUCHING. — A 16-year-old Sibu girl has been treated in Lau King Howe Hospital in Sibu for dengue fever, the first case of the disease in Sarawak since 1976.

The girl, from Upper Tong Sang Road, was admitted to the hospital earlier this month and was discharged last week after being cleared.

Sibu was classified as

a "danger area" for dengue fever several years ago and since the latest case the state Medical Department and Sibu Urban District Council have been spraying roadsides to get rid of disease-carrying aedes mosquitoes; they have also asked members of the public to destroy mosquito breeding grounds on private property.

TIMBER WORKERS WARNED AGAINST MALARIA

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 28 Jun 80 p 2

[Text]

KUCHING. — Sarawakians working in timber camps in neighbouring Sabah, Kalimantan and Peninsular Malaysia are being warned to take precautions against malaria.

They are being advised to have quinine pills (or other anti-malaria medicines) with them when they leave the state for those areas.

They are also being told to get a medical examination at a government clinic or hospital when they return home.

The advice comes from the state Medical Department following the discovery of such workers coming back to Sarawak with the disease.

Given the fact that there are thousands of Sarawakians employed by Sabah and Kalimantan timber camps — but a much smaller number in Peninsular Malaysia — then the official concern is justified.

Most of these workers come from the Third Division, others from the First, Fourth and remaining divisions.

Departmental statistics underlined the problem.

Of the 99 malaria cases detected in the Third Division in 1978, 44 percent were in returning timber labourers.

Last year the division had 61 cases, with returnee timbermen making up 36 percent. For the first five months of this year, 33 cases were noted in the division, 40 percent from timber workers.

A closer study of these divisional statistics indicates timbermen working in Sabah are more likely to catch the disease than those in Kalimantan (in 1978, 22 such Third Division workers came back from Sabah with malaria and 15 from Kalimantan. Respective figures last year were 18 and 19).

CHOLERA OUTBREAK REPORTEDLY LOSING STRENGTH

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 3 Jul 80 p 2

[Excerpts] Dr Jorge Cabral, national director of preventive medicine, has stated to the press that "we cannot guarantee that the cholera outbreak in Maputo has ended, but we can confirm that it is completely under control and no new cases have been registered since 7 June."

He also announced that as a result of the progressive decrease of the disease, a number of measures have been adopted, such as the closing of the special wards which had been established in the Central Hospital of Maputo. He added that the present situation does not mean that the population of Maputo should set aside the preventive measures for personal hygiene, housing and food and water.

In reference to the information from the Cabo Delgado province, the director of preventive medicine said that five cases were detected in the Mocimbo da Praia district from 15 to 21 June, two of whom were fatal. Still another case was detected later in the Mueda district of the same province. The necessary measures have been adopted in this province.

The city of Maputo was affected by a cholera outbreak at the beginning of March. It had originated in an area closely connected with the fishing population of some islands located at the estuary of the Incomati River where cholera cases had been registered previously. The epidemic then reached various points of the city.

A total of 905 individuals were hospitalized since the beginning of the outbreak and 293 cases were confirmed. There were only 11 fatalities, which correspond to a mortality rate of slightly less than 3 percent.

Dr Jorge Cabral declared that it cannot yet be stated there are no more carriers of the disease, and this is the reason why the population should be maintained in a state of alert.

In a concrete reference to one of the existing rules he explained that, because the city's sewers flow out in the part of the beach between the Clube Marítimo and the Clube Naval, the interdiction about fishing and swimming in that locality is still enforced.

NEPAL

BRIEFS

HOSPITALS TOTAL 73--The number of hospitals throughout the Kingdom of Nepal has reached 73. These hospitals have a total of 2,669 beds, it is learnt. There were 59 hospitals during the fourth Five Year Plan.--RSS [Text] [Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 8 Jul 80 p 2]

CSO: 5400

LETTER DISPUTES FIGURES ON MENINGITIS DECLINE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 17 Jun 80 p 4

[Letter to the editor]

[Text]

I AM compelled to react to some articles on meningitis published in recent issues of the New Nigerian in order to erase the false sense of security the articles might have generated.

Your newspaper edition of Tuesday, May 13, 1980, carried the bold front page headline "CSM DECLINES SHARPLY IN THE NORTH." The headline was factual, but the article contained some misleading statements. Firstly, it should be pointed out that there can be and often are great differences between reported and actual numbers of a disease or deaths resulting from the disease. The differences are due to defects in our present system of gathering and reporting health statistics.

One should not, therefore, be carried away by the small number of reported cases of "the deadly disease" or "the killer disease" (cerebro-spinal meningitis), to use your favourite terminologies. I find it extremely impossible to believe your report that the Kaduna State Ministry of Health

Chief Medical Officer said there were only 50 cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis (CSM) reported in Kaduna State this year.

All I can say is that something has gone wrong somewhere. In the children's section of one hospital alone (ABU Hospital, Zaria) an average of four cases were admitted daily over a period of about three months. This number does not include adult cases.

Unfortunately, your article gives the impression that the decline in the number of reported cases of CSM was due to "massive vaccination campaign" embarked upon by various states. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DRAW SUCH A CONCLUSION.

The epidemiology of the disease is such that we can have a 'quiet' period for several years without any medical intervention, followed by a great upsurge in the disease. I disagree with the unqualified statements of some health commissioners you interviewed that the decline in CSM is due to vaccination.

The euphoria contained in your edition of May 13, was carried over to your southern edition of May 15 on page 9. This euphoria was climaxed with an editorial "THE DECLINE OF CSM" in the May 15 edition. The opening sentence of the editorial was unproven, misleading and capable

of giving people a false sense of security regarding CSM.

In all the aforementioned articles and editorial one is given the impression that measles is a small nuisance "bothering" the people. I must state categorically that measles is the real killer disease — one of the miserable 'Ms' that kill and maim our children: measles, malnutrition, mycobacterium tuberculosis and maldevelopment.

Ask any family how many children it has lost to measles, or how many children have become blind as a result of measles. Mr. Editor, the only reason I can see why you do not regard diseases such as measles and gastroenteritis (diarrhea and vomiting) as "killer diseases" is that such diseases hardly affect the vocal minority (the adults), whereas the diseases kill and maim the silent majority, the innocent children we all call leaders of tomorrow.

It will interest the public to know that one single dose of effective measles vaccine given at the right age protects a child for at least 10 to 15 years and possibly for life. This is in contrast to CSM

vaccination which is at present of unknown duration of protection and hence the need to vaccinate yearly

In conclusion, I wish to state that: (i) there is no epidemic of CSM this year; (ii) this is not unusual in the epidemiology of the disease; (iii) some states vaccinate people against CSM, but (iv) there is so far no proof that the vaccination has any impact on the epidemiology of CSM; (v) in terms of cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness measles is easier to eradicate

Zaria MURI B. ABDURRAHMAN

[Department of Paediatrics, ABU Hospital, Zaria].

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

IMO STATE CHOLERA--There is an outbreak of Cholera in imo State. The areas seriously affected are Afikpo, Okigwe, Ohaozara and Isialangwa Local Government. The number of deaths resulting from the outbreak has been officially put at 71. But unofficial sources spoke of more than 300 dead with 2,000 patients on danger list. Confirming the outbreak in Overri the state Chief Health Officer, Dr Nebuwa Nwozo said massive supply of cholera vaccine were required from the Federal Government. Dr Nwozo said two federal government officials were now in the state to assess the situation. Federal help, he added, was needed urgently since the state government lacks enough vaccine to fight the epidemic. Meanwhile, more than 30,000 inhabitants in the affected areas have been immunised by the state's health officials, who were drafted to the areas by the state government. Treatment centres and immunisation posts have also being set up in the affected areas. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 21 Jun 80 p 24]

CSO: 5400

DIARRHEA EPIDEMIC TOLL REACHES 40

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] KARACHI, July 12: The strange "cero" disease, now ranging in Karachi in a mini-epidemic form, has already taken a toll of 40 lives - mostly children - during the last 10 days.

Although the Health authorities claim that the disease has been effectively checked with inoculation campaign on a large scale, the patients continue to be admitted in various hospitals of the city.

According to semi-official sources, about 150 cases are brought to hospitals daily out of which 40 per cent are admitted and the rest are allowed to return home after some kind of treatment.

The symptoms of the disease are loose motions, vomiting and pain in the intestines and stomach, the same usually attributed to cholera.

During the last 24 hours, three deaths were reported in two hospitals and over 90 patients were admitted during the same period.

The Civil Surgeon, Karachi, Dr. Aftab Ahmad Qureshi, who has been assigned the job of investigating into the disease and submitting a report, has himself reported to have expressed concern

over emergence of new cases despite all efforts to check the epidemic.

The Government has so far supplied 1.20 lakh units of vaccine to the KMC, obtained directly from the National Health

Laboratory in Islamabad, in addition to 50,000 units made available by the Commissioner of Karachi.

The health authorities claim that the main cause of the disease is contaminated water from wells being used by people in certain localities.

THREE MORE DIE OF GASTROENTERITIS

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 11 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] One hundred and forty nine more cases of gastroenteritis were brought to different hospitals from various localities and three of them died yesterday.

According to the sources, 53 children were brought to the OPD of the Civil Hospital while 30 more were rushed to the Casualty Ward of the hospital in the evening.

However, one of them; Asmat; one-month old; of Mission Road died later on while Alan Khaton of Manghopir area; was in serious condition.

Eight children were brought to the Abbasi Shaheed hospital where one of them; Waseem; nine months old; died and condition of one child was serious.

Forty-two cases of gastroenteritis were referred to Abdul Sattar Edhi's Trust Hospital where one of them died before any medical aid could be given.

Sixteen children of diarrhoea cases were rushed to Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Centre; out of them seven were admitted for treatment.

C80: 3400

MASS VACCINATION, SURVEY OF GROUND WATER ORDERED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Jul 80 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, July 3: Instructions to survey all buildings that use ground water have been issued by the Mayor of Karachi following death of 10 children who fell prey to diarrhoea in Ranchos Line area yesterday.

The Mayor, Abdul Sattar Afghani today also ordered a mass vaccination drive throughout the city to check spread of any epidemic.

The Mayor, who visited Nagori Building, the venue of the tragic incident, this morning later said it was not a case of cholera. The doctors have diagnosed it as 'gastro-enteritis', he added.

He said the tragic occurrence was the result of contaminated water supplied to the residents from the underground water tank. The water became contaminated due to mixing of water obtained through tubewell.

The Mayor advised the people, who have installed tubewells, to use such water only after boiling it and in the meantime get it chemically examined to ensure whether it was fit for human consumption.

Mr. Afghani also visited the Civil Hospital where the Medical Superintendent informed him that the condition of other such pa-

tient was improving. He was also told that although the situation was fully under control the hospital authorities were fully prepared to any emergency.

The Mayor said the KMC Health Department would collect samples and conduct laboratory tests and those wells which were found to contain contaminated water would be closed down.

He further said strict watch would be kept on the use of water in buildings which had borings because the death of 10 children was due to the use of tubewell water.

Meanwhile Maj Gen. Hakem Arshad, Deputy Martial Law Administrator, has directed the KMC Health Department to take immediate preventive measures to control the incidence of diarrhoea and gastro-enteritis and convey his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families.

The DMLA who had gone on an inspection visit to Agha Shahid Hospital, Papadnagar Balda and adjoining areas discussed in detail the sanitary conditions of these localities with the Chief Engineer of KMC and the officers of

Health Department and asked them to ensure that the general public was no longer exposed to the hazards of sanitation. -PFI

EDITORIAL: VACCINATION DRIVE

Karachi DAWN in English 8 Jul 30 p 7

[Text] **A**LTHOUGH the civic agencies claim that the cause of the recent epidemic in the City is not cholera, they have yet to come up with any cause for the alarming speed with which lives were lost. The attitude so far seems to be dictated primarily by self-exoneration: once it was proved that the common cholera germ was not present in water further attempts to pinpoint the cause appear to be proceeding at a lukewarm pace. Letting out that diarrhoea is the cause for the death of fourteen children and the hospitalisation of many more is doing a disservice to the people. Diarrhoea by itself is a very common symptom which indicates that something is wrong with the body, and the reasons for this could range from having excessive food to amoebic dysentery in one of the many varieties of cholera. It is, however, unlikely that the virulence with which diarrhoea has spread here has been caused by over-indulgence in food. Which still leaves out the all-important question: what is causing it?

Until the cause has been identified, specific measures to combat it cannot be undertaken. Extra chlorination of water, or advice to boil drinking water and so forth is certainly a first defence step, but it is not completely adequate. Besides, warnings issued to people will be more credible if a disease more specific and more dangerous — as it probably is — than

diarrhoea is mentioned.

Even though the authorities have denied that there is any cholera in the City, a vaccination drive is intended, which is as it should be. And although it has not been mentioned that cholera vaccine is to be administered, one presumes that this is so, since a vaccin against diarrhoea as such has yet to be invented. Cholera is an ever-present threat in this country and vaccination

should be undertaken as a matter of course, especially before the monsoon season. The Mayor of Karachi has

said that the KMC is vaccinating people in the affected area of Ranchore Lines on a priority basis. Elsewhere it was reported that the KMC has one hundred thousand c.c. of vaccine at present, while double this amount has been sent for from Islamabad. It is unfortunate, though, that the KMC Health Officer feels that this amount of vaccine is sufficient. His reasoning is based on the fact that only one area of the City has been affected and it will not be necessary to vaccinate people in other localities. The fact, though, is that cases have already been reported from Nazimabad and areas around it, and cholera is a highly contagious disease which is no respecter of boundaries. The KMC should be mindful of this fact and embark on a programme for mass vaccination. One realises that the KMC's facilities for a mass vaccination drive may be insufficient, in which case it should mobilise doctors and paramedics many of whom will be willing to assist. In this connection, it should be noted that volunteers of St John's Ambulance have already been called up to help in vaccination. Other medical personnel should similarly be mobilised so that, if not a house-to-house, then at least an area-wise drive is launched, beginning with the poorer and more congested areas. Besides this, one should again importune the civic agencies to make sure that water supply lines and

sewerage lines are not in close proximity, and that a regular survey of water supply lines is initiated to protect them against contamination by accumulated waste water or through small breaches.

CSO: 5400

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

ANTICHOLERA DRIVE IN MULTAN DISTRICT--Multan, July 7: The Health Department of Multan has launched a vigorous campaign against cholera and typhoid in the district. Teams consisting of vaccination sanitary inspectors and other staff members have been constituted at tehsil levels in all urban and rural areas to finish the task at the earliest possible time. Lady health visitors have also been ordered to inoculate people by visiting each and every home in their respective jurisdictions. Preventive measures are also in progress in those areas of the Multan district which are annually flooded in the reason. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 8 Jul 80 p 10]

CSO: 3400

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PRC RESEARCH INSTITUTES COOPERATE WITH WHO

OW251234 Beijing XINHUA in English 1225 GMT 25 Jun 80

[Text] Beijing, June 25 (XINHUA)--Eleven Chinese research institutes have been designated centres for collaboration with the World Health Organization, under an agreement between WHO and China's Ministry of Public Health.

These institutes and the fields in which they will collaborate with WHO are:

The Institute of Medical Biology under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, enteroviruses;

The Institute of Virology under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, viral diseases;

The Institute of Parasitic Diseases under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, malaria, schistosomiasis and filariasis;

The Beijing Institute of Tropical Medicine, paragonimiasis, clonorchiasis and leishmaniasis;

The Shanghai Institute of Entomology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, insect toxicology and physiology;

The Cancer Institute under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, cancer research;

The Shanghai Cancer Institute, cancer;

The Cancer Research Institute of Chungshan Medical College, cancer;

The Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, cardiovascular diseases;

The Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases of the Shanghai First Medical College, cardiovascular diseases;

And the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases of Guangdong Province, cardiovascular diseases.

'XINHUA' SURVEYS RURAL HEALTH SITUATION IN SICHUAN

OW080856 Beijing XINHUA in English 0714 GMT 8 Jul 80

[Text] Chengdu, July 8 (XINHUA)--In the vast rural areas of Sichuan Province, susceptibility to disease has been reduced markedly, according to the Public Health Department of the province.

Statistics show that the incidence rates of 12 major acute infectious diseases have dropped for three successive years. The 1979 rate of rural Sichuan showed a 13.5 percent fall as compared with the previous year. Diseases like measles, infantile paralysis and diphtheria have been largely eliminated, and leptospirosis has been brought under control.

With a rural population of more than 80 million, Sichuan Province has always attached importance to disease prevention and improvement of environmental [word indistinct] in the countryside.

For three successive years since 1977, about 80 per cent of the rural people were inoculated each year free of charge against diseases including infantile paralysis, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus and leptospirosis.

Measures have also been taken to improve sanitation in the countryside.

More than five million methane generating pits built in the province have made it possible to dispose of excrement and urine, filth and mire in a sealed condition, quite apart from supplying fuel.

Public health departments in the province have also paid attention to improving drinking water for the peasants. On the west Sichuan plain, all the conventional wells have been transformed into mechanized sealed ones. In the hilly areas in north and central Sichuan where people used to suffer from water deficiency because of frequent droughts, more than 400,000 wells have been sunk including mechanized ones. People there no longer drink from ditches and pools.

There are currently 15,00 medical workers at the grassroots level and more than 160,000 barefoot doctors in the province who have played an active role in improving sanitary conditions and treating and preventing diseases in the countryside.

BRIEFS

PARASITIC DISEASES--Recently the Jilin Provincial People's Government held a telephone conference and issued instructions on controlling taeniasis, a parasitic disease of humans caused by larvae called bladder worms or cysticerci. The provincial government urged the departments concerned to strengthen the sanitary inspection of pork supplied to the market, to improve the hog-raising method and to properly dispose of night soil. In the past Hunchun County achieved successful results in combating these two parasitic diseases. By the end of 1979 most of the taeniasis patients in the county were cured, and the cases of hogs with cysticercosis showed a marked decline. [SK280528 Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin 2200 GMT 25 May 80]

CSO: 3400

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

PLAGUE DEATHS--Twelve people have died of plague in (Nywele) village in Lushoto district. Three others are undergoing treatment, two at the village and one at the district hospital in Lushoto town. The district health officer, Ndugu (Andrew Komba), told the Tanzania News Agency that the disease is believed to have broken out in the village last month. He said this was the first time the disease had appeared in the village, and the villagers did not realize it until the beginning of June, when doctors received reports after 11 people had died. Ndugu (Komba) said several (?specimens) from the infected people have proved on examination that the disease is plague. Because of the disease, the village has been placed under quarantine. [Excerpt] [LD160724 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 13 Jun 80]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

THANH HOA HEALTH SECTOR--The public health sector of Thanh Hoa Province is stepping up its tasks of preventing and controlling cholera, dysentery, malaria and hemorrhagic fever, involving nearly 100 doctors and physicians who are assigned to 100 anti-epidemics teams in districts and towns. It has coordinated with the trade sector to inspect sanitation in various restaurants, food factories and hotels. It has immunized more than 2 million people against tuberculosis, 200,000 people against bubonic plague and more than 600,000 children against poliomyelitis. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 Jul 80 BK]

CSO: 5400

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN CHOMA REPORTED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 30 Jun 80 p 1

[Text]

AN OUTBREAK of measles has been reported in Choma and health authorities have mounted an extensive vaccination campaign in an effort to control the disease.

Choma district health inspector, Mr Albert Simwambane confirmed yesterday that there was a high and an unusual incidence of the disease, particularly in the townships.

Although no deaths had been reported Mr Simwambane appealed to parents to have their children vaccinated against the disease.

He attacked parents who did not take their children to local clinics for immunisation.

Zambia Information Services office has been mobilised to use the public address system to publicise the vaccination campaign starting tomorrow.

Vaccinations

Mr Simwambane said vaccinations were being carried out at two centres.

He said more than 20 children had been admitted in Choma hospital in the past two weeks following the outbreak of the disease.

Meanwhile, a Choma hospital spokesman said that there was a shortage of bedding in the children's wards, particularly in the isolation ward where measles cases were being taken.

Because of the shortage children were sharing beds and blankets, the spokesman said.

BRIEFS

DROP IN RABIES CASES--La Plata (Buenos Aires)--"After 4 years of intensive battling against rabies, this month we have achieved the first year without any cases of human rabies, and a significant decline in canine rabies throughout the entire province." This statement is contained in a report from the Rabies Treatment Center of Avellaneda, which comes under the Ministry of Health and is responsible for the annual programs started in 1976 for administering vaccinations at fixed and mobile stations, and for eliminating stray dogs, especially in the districts of the Buenos Aires suburbs and the adjacent ones, which are considered a high risk from an epidemiological standpoint. The report states that, in 1976, when the intensive action against the disease began, 13 cases of human rabies were reported; in 1977 there were five; in 1978, nine; and in 1979, two. During the latter year, the official vaccination reached a record 1,721,695 animals, nearly 30 percent more than in 1978; in addition to the immunization of over 200,000 dogs by veterinarians and private citizens. Furthermore, 198,125 stray animals were destroyed, a figure 25 percent higher than that for 1978. All of this was supplemented by a health education campaign. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Jun 80 p 14] 2909

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

INCURABLE DISEASE KILLS CATTLE--Over 50 cattle are reported to have died of Malignant Catarrhal Fever at Dongdong cattle post near Nojane in the Ghanzi District. The disease is said to be a fatal type of fever commonly found in Wildebeest and noticed in the Nojane area recently, according to a spokesman of the Animal Health Division in Gaborone. The spokesman of Animal Health Division is satisfied the disease is confined to the Nojane area only and that it infects cattle that are normally not immune to the disease. So far no vaccines have been developed to counteract the disease and as such the disease is incurable, according to the spokesman. The only preventive measure is to isolate cattle from the wildebeest, he said.
[Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 6 Jun 80 p 1]

CSO: 3400

BRAZIL

GOVERNMENT IMMUNIZES AGAINST HOG CHOLERA IN CEARA

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Jul 50 p 20

[Text] The Animal Health Defense Department of the Ministry of Agriculture ordered the mass vaccination of hog herds in the southern and shore regions of Ceara, where 148 cases of hog cholera have been recorded in recent weeks.

The ministry's Animal Health Service Chief Mota Pontes explained that hog cholera "is not a disease with consequences as serious and alarming as those of African swine fever which recently hit herds in the country. It can be controlled since it can be checked through preventive effort."

Ministry technicians are visiting properties in the most hard-hit regions, giving hog farm guidance as to the vaccination of the animals which will be extended throughout the state thereafter.

The Animal Health Defense Department admits that the number of hog cholera cases may be higher. Even so, according to Mota Pontes, "there is no reason for alarm on the part of the population since the situation is being brought under control and will shortly have been restored."

5058

CSO: 5400

NORWAY

BRIEFS

PARVO VIRUS SPREADS--The contagious stomach illness affecting dogs--the so-called parvus virus--has spread to most parts of Hedmark and Oppland. The county veterinarians in Hedmark and Oppland said to the Society of Gudbrandsdalers that the danger for spreading of the illness is especially great during the July vacation period. Parvo virus is a virulent and difficult contagion. Pups, older dogs and ill dogs are most susceptible. (NTB) [Text] [Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 14 Jul 80 p 12]

CSO: 3400

LOCUSTS SWAMP BAROLONG AREA

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 4 Jun 80 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts]

Recent surveys by the Department of Agricultural Research have shown that locusts are present throughout the Barolong area. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr D W Finlay has announced.

According to a release from the Ministry, this particular insect, the African Migratory Locust, has not affected Botswana since the great locust plagues of the 1930s and 1940s which covered most of Africa.

The release goes on to explain that in certain areas the locust is able to persist in very low numbers for many years, living and behaving as a solitary grasshopper. When conditions are favourable the insect begins to breed in large numbers and finally concentrates into swarms capable of flying long distances. Since even a small swarm will contain 20-30 million locusts the insect can cause enormous damage to cereal crops.

In the Orange Free State where several large locust swarms have recently been found, it is thought that the outbreak has been caused by very early rains in 1979. It is probable that the outbreak in Barolong has a similar cause. No true swarms have yet been seen although they have been found within a few kilometres of the

border. Several heavy concentrations of locusts have however been found in the Barolong, and it is possible that these could form swarms.

It is now late in the season and there is almost no immediate threat to our crops. The danger lies in the fact that the locusts will lay eggs at the time of the first rains of 1980/81. Since each female may lay up to 50 eggs, breeding by locusts in areas where they are already concentrated could easily give rise to large swarms early in the next cropping season. This would cause damage to young maize and sorghum. In addition, as the insects continue to breed through the season, their numbers will become increasingly large.

The only practical means of dealing with large numbers of locusts are to poison the young hoppers before they can fly or to spray the adults when they begin to form swarms. Hoppers can be treated on the ground but the adults must be sprayed from the air. This costs about P20 per cent hectare and can only be used economically where there are heavy locust concentrations.

A campaign has been started in which all such known concentrations will be destroyed and the first spraying has been

carried out on about 70 ha of infested maize land near Pitsoane. In addition the Ministry of Agriculture is preparing for a larger anti-locust campaign should this be necessary in 1980/81.

"If you see locusts please report this to Agricultural Research (Telephone: Gaborone 52381), Ministry of Agriculture (Telephone: Gaborone 51177), the nearest Agricultural Officer, or the police."

Try to record:-

- (a) The place where you saw the locusts (distance and direction of nearest village or lands area, etc.)
- (b) Where exactly the locusts were (in grassland, maize, flying swarm etc.)
- (c) If a flying swarm, the direction in which they were travelling (towards a certain place, North or West etc). The time taken for the whole swarm to pass one spot.
- (d) If a flying swarm, the approximate density of the locusts (was the air full of flying locusts all the time or did only one or two fly up every few paces as you walked through the area).
- (e) If a hopper band, the colour of the locusts and the number per square metre or year.
- (f) Your name and the place where you can be contacted if we wish to find the locusts.

SWEDEN

BRIEFS

WAR ON BARK BEETLE--It will now be easier to track the bark beetle's destruction of Swedish forests. At a government meeting Thursday, the Forest Ministry was granted 70,000 kroner to defray the cost of the colored aerial photography which has been planned in the area of Sunne and Torsby this summer. The area most severely affected by the bark beetle spans approximately 100,000 hectare. Using a special color film, the damage can be detected before the naked eye would be able to spot the trees' changing color. It may even be possible to detect the attack early enough to prevent further infestation. [Text] [Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 13 Jun 80 p 3]

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